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February 6, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COLLIN HAWKINS CONVICTED ON FEDERAL CARJACKING
AND GUN CHARGES**

Faces Life In Prison Under the "Three Strikes You're Out" Law

Baltimore, Maryland - Collin Hawkins, age 24, was convicted today by a federal jury of carjacking, use of a handgun in a crime of violence and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

United States Attorney Rod Rosenstein said, "We pursued this case in federal court because, as a result of Collin Hawkins' criminal record, this conviction carries a mandatory sentence of life in federal prison with no probation and no parole. Collin Hawkins will never again carry a gun, carjack or shoot anyone in Baltimore."

Testimony at the three day trial showed that Hawkins used a firearm to commit a carjacking on November 22, 2006. Hawkins was arrested on December 9, 2006 after a struggle with Baltimore City police officers in the 5600 block of the Alameda, and found to be in possession of a 9-millimeter pistol.

Hawkins faces a maximum penalty of life in prison for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a violent crime; 15 years in prison for carjacking; and 10 years in prison for possession of a firearm by a felon. The government filed a motion for a sentencing enhancement under the "three strikes" law, which mandates a life sentence, based on Hawkins' previous convictions for violent crimes and drug crimes. U.S. District Judge Andre M. Davis has scheduled sentencing for April 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Hawkins remains in custody.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Assistant State's Attorney Paul O'Connor, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Baltimore City Police Department for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jason Weinstein and Solette Magnelli, who are prosecuting the case.